



Tim Rogers, Mayor

Alexandria Wojcik, Deputy Mayor

Trustees: Stana Weisburd, William Wheeler-Murray, & Michele Zipp

*Nancy Branco
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Treasurer*

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*Gene Bleu Terwilliger
Superintendent Public Works*

Village Clerk

PRESS RELEASE – September 9, 2022

MULTIFACETED green infrastructure and drinking water project finally near completion

Please join us on Tuesday, September 13, at 10am, at Mohonk & Elting Avenues in New Paltz, across from St. Joseph's Church.

We are hosting a ribbon cutting at the intersection of Mohonk and Elting Avenues on Tuesday, to thank all those involved in our multifaceted project, which is part of our initiative to source more safe and affordable drinking water in New Paltz. Work is nearly complete on the Hasbrouck Park expansion at this intersection, which offsets the alienation of parkland near Moriello Pool for the creation of two new municipal drinking water wells.

Both Senator Martucci and Assemblymember Cahill's staff were incredibly helpful during the alienation process, which required the passage of a law in Albany. Our representatives deserve praise and we also wish to thank the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for their assistance; along with Former State Senator Jen Metzger, for securing funding via the State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM) that allowed us to install green infrastructure features to improve stormwater management in this section of Hasbrouck Park, to ensure we are doing our part locally to protect the health of the Wallkill River.

Our Village of New Paltz DPW staff are finalizing the project, which will include delineated pedestrian paths on blacktop, and marked new parking spaces.





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Background information on the project (Originally posted on Mayor Rogers Facebook page, June 2022)

We just opened submissions here at Village Hall from 4 contractors who were bidding on our project to expand the SW corner of Hasbrouck Park (where Elting and Mohonk Avenues meet). We are excited to share that the work is planned to start and be completed this summer.

MUNICIPAL WATER: This intersection project is being done in conjunction with the two groundwater wells that will be connected to the Village of New Paltz's water system in an effort to reduce dependence on water from the DEP's Catskill Aqueduct. The wells that have been tested for yield and quality are located on the northern edge of the Moriello Pool property, in an area that wasn't especially useful for recreation.

In accordance with state and federal regulations, because the Moriello Pool property is classified as parkland, the Village had to acquire or create additional parkland of equal or greater value within the Village to substitute for that portion of the Moriello Pool property being utilized for the construction of the well facilities.

In April 2021, the Village of New Paltz Board of Trustees adopted a resolution determining that it is in the best interests of the Village and the public to utilize approximately 0.25 acres at the Moriello Pool property



in order to construct, install, and maintain municipal drinking water wells and related facilities.

RECREATION: The Board of Trustees determined that it was feasible to accomplish this substitution of parkland by enlarging the SW corner of Hasbrouck Park by reducing the road width of the intersection at

Mohonk and Elting Avenues. By undertaking this work at Hasbrouck Park, at least 1,000 square feet of asphalt pavement from existing Village streets will be replaced and become dedicated parkland to enlarge the publicly usable area within Hasbrouck Park.

The Assessor of the Town of New Paltz determined that the value of the Moriello Pool Property would decrease by \$600.00 (\$2,400 per acre) after the well facilities were constructed and alienated from the Moriello Pool Property. However, the contemplated expansion of the SW corner of Hasbrouck Park will increase its value by a rate of \$37,200 per acre per the Assessor (15.5X the value of the area for well facilities at the Moriello Pool Property).



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SAFETY: The intersection felt poorly designed and seemed to encourage cars to go too fast. Studies have shown that narrowing roadways encourages drivers to slow down. It did not feel like it fit on a village street, especially near a busy park with a playground. Pushing the park out into that space will create a 90-degree turn, forcing drivers to slow down. This is similar to what happened when the Village reconfigured another vehicle-centric turn at the corner of Mohonk and South Chestnut in 2017. That change helped with vehicle and pedestrian safety, pervious surface, and stormwater drainage where there had been a problem with water pooling on South Chestnut.

STORMWATER & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: Like the 2017 project, improvements at Elting and Mohonk will reduce the volume of stormwater discharged into the Walkill River and improve stormwater quality. The Walkill has experienced harmful algal blooms resulting from increased nutrient levels of untreated stormwater runoff. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation identified the Walkill and several of its tributaries as “impaired” under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act in 2018.

Impairment relates to pollutants like phosphorus or fecal bacteria.

We originally submitted a grant application to the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation's Green Innovation Grant Program for assistance with this project in 2019 but did not receive a grant award. Subsequently, then Senator Jen Metzger secured \$50,000 towards this project, when she was still serving as our state senator later that year.



No on-street parking spaces at the corner would be lost even though approximately 1,000 square feet of existing street pavement will be removed. Removing pavement also means we will have less pavement repair work in the future which also reduces pressures on our climate crisis challenges and saves taxpayers money.